

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection - Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10:

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,561,714 to Byczek et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,371,225 to Narozny. Both of these references have been previously applied. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

As an initial matter, the Examiner has maintained the same rejection as previously applied, and has provided more insight into the Examiner's analysis.

Specifically, the Examiner has acknowledged Applicant's argument regarding the Narozny reference and has indicated that the Examiner is only relying on Narozny to teach "that the tapering of the inner and outer surfaces is useful for directing the teeth inwardly and outwardly as desired, whether through the conductor or not." *See Office Action, page 3.* Essentially, the Examiner is relying on Narozny to teach that the direction that the projections are bent can be controlled by the side of the projections on which the tapered portions are placed. Further, the Examiner is asserting that it would have been obvious to change the tapered surface of the projections 32 in Byczek, in accordance with the teachings of Narozny. Applicant continues to disagree with the Examiner.

Namely, Applicant submits that the Examiner has not provided a sufficient motivation to combine the above references. More specifically, Applicant submits that the Examiner has not provided sufficient rationale to modify the tapered edge of the projections 32 in the Byczek terminal 12. As shown in Figure 5, of Byczek, the projections 32 already have a tapered portion. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to add to or change the

configuration of the existing tapered portion of the projection 32. Because the addition or changing of the taper in Byczek will affect how the projection 32 behaves when penetrating a material, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to change the disclosed taper as suggested by the Examiner.

Further, as previously discussed by the Applicant, Narozny teaches that the projections 46 and 48 have their inner surfaces tapered to ensure that the projections 46 and 48 do not contact the internal conductor, and only contact the insulation. Applicant submits that this further supports Applicant's assertion that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner. In fact, Narozny makes it clear that to ensure contact with both the conductor and the insulator, the tapered surfaces should be on the outer sides of the projections.

Because of the teachings of the above two references, Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have combined these references as suggested by the Examiner. If one would have combined the teachings of these references, they would have placed the tapered surfaces on the outer edges of the projections 32 so as to ensure contact with the conductor and the insulation, as clearly taught by Narozny.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that even if one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to combine the above references (which Applicant does not admit) the resultant combination of the above references would not render the present invention obvious, as they would not teach or suggest each and every feature of the present invention. In fact, Narozny expressly teaches away from the present invention.. As such, Applicant submits that the

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Application Number 09/910,872

Our Ref: Q65548
Art Unit: 2833

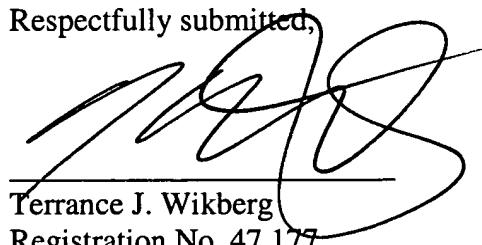
Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to the claimed invention, as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Terrance J. Wikberg
Registration No. 47,177

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 3, 2004